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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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Pursuant to: Montana Environmental Policy Act
Section 69-6504 (b) (3)

Project No. FG-7

Construction of a three-bedroom residence at the Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery near Bridger, Montana

March 13, 1972

Prepared by

Montana Fish and Game Department
Fisheries Division
Helena, Montana

I. Purpose or Objective.

To construct a three-bedroom residence at the Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery, a State Fish and Game Department installation, for occupancy by a hatchery employee and his family. Presently only two families reside at the station. Of the two other employees, one drives from Bridger each day and one from a small ranch nearby. An additional resident employee would help equalize weekend and holiday duty.

II. Description of the Project.

The proposed 48 ft. by 28 ft. residence will be located on hatchery grounds approximately 200 feet east of the existing foreman's residence. The drainfield and septic tank will extend north of the residence.

III. Description of Existing Environment.

A. Human Resources.

The proposed residence will provide quarters for a hatchery employee and his family on the hatchery grounds and will help equalize weekend and holiday duty at the station.

B. Physiography and Geology.

The proposed residence will be situated on fairly level land with enough slope to provide good drainage. The soil is clayey loam with some coarse rock. The water table is between 50 and 60 feet below ground surface.

C. Land Use.

The site selected for the proposed residence has no present use.

D. Fish and Wildlife.

There will be no effect on fish and wildlife by the proposed residence.

E. Vegetative Resources.

The site selected is presently covered with native grasses and weeds that are kept mowed down to present a neat appearance of the hatchery grounds.

F. Climate.

Summer and winter extremes of temperature are experienced in the hatchery area. Rainfall is relatively low; however, winter snow is quite heavy at times with winds causing drifting problems.

G. Transportation Systems.

Not applicable.

H. Utility Systems.

The existing environment includes septic tanks and drainfields for the two existing houses and the hatchery, plus the necessary power poles and lines for electrical service.

IV. Evaluation of Environmental Impact.

A. Environmental Impact of Proposed Action.

The construction of the residence would have no measurable effect on the environment.

B. Adverse Environmental Effects which cannot be Avoided.

These would be a temporary disturbance of soil for installation of the septic tank and drainfield. The land area covered by the house would no longer be producing grasses and weeds.

C. Alternatives.

Alternatives to the proposed action would be (1) To locate the residence elsewhere on the hatchery grounds. The overall effect would be basically the same and the site presently selected appears best for general station operations. (2) To not build the residence. This would continue to place an unequal share of weekend and holiday duty on the two employees now living at the station. The only towns nearby where an employee could find housing are Bridger and Fromberg, seven miles or more from the hatchery. There are times when weather conditions make travel extremely difficult or impossible in the area. With the employee living at the station the problems associated with daily travel and weather would be eliminated.

D. Short-Term - Long-Term Use.

The new residence would provide housing for an employee and his family for the life of the building.

E. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resource.

Construction materials used would be committed for the life of the building with a probable negligible salvage value after the useful life of the building.

F. Discussion of Problems and Objections by Other Agencies

No problems or objections are foreseen.

V. Benefits.

There will be no benefits to the environment by the proposed action. Hatchery operations will be benefitted by having another employee available at the station.

VI. A Summary Statement.

Construction of a new residence at the Bluewater Springs State Fish Hatchery near Bridger, Montana will provide housing for an employee and his family on the station. Heretofore weekend and holiday duties have fallen to the two employees now living on the hatchery grounds. The added man at the hatchery would help equalize the workload.

The site selected for the residence is idle land covered by native grasses and weeds. The soil is clayey loam with some coarse rock and is typical of the general area. Soil percolation tests have not been made for the site; however, the two residences now on the station, built in the late 1940's have had trouble-free sewage systems with 500-gallon septic tanks and drainfields.

VII. A List of Mailing Distribution.

✓Department of Natural Resources

✓Department of Planning & Economic Development

✓Department of Health

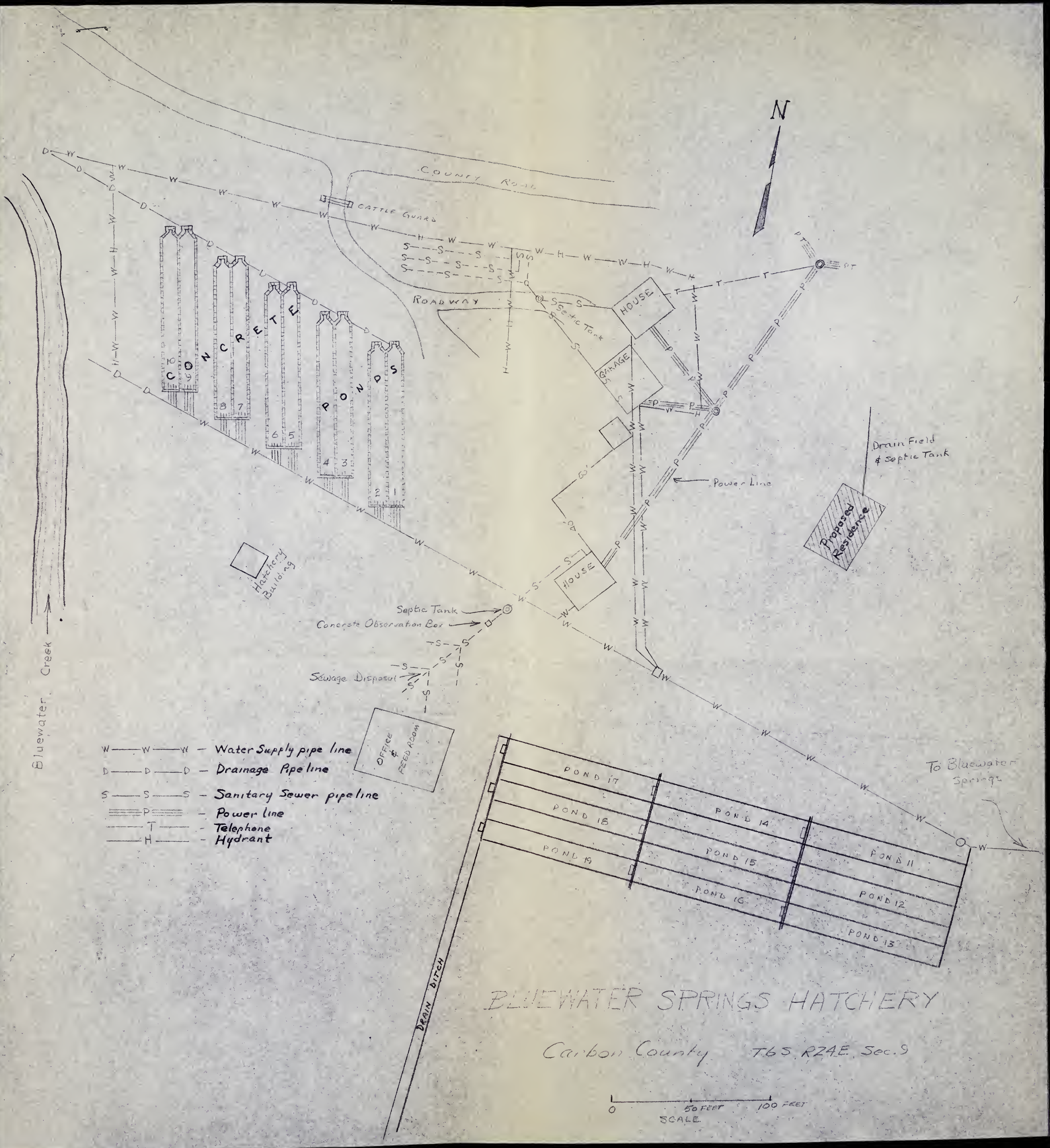
✓Environmental Quality Council

✓Office of the Governor

✓District 5, Montana Fish and Game Department

✓I & E Division, Montana Fish and Game Department

✓Student Environmental Research Center, University of Montana



BLUEWATER SPRINGS HATCHERY

Carbon County T6S R24E Sec. 9